

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
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PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 9/23/77

007

FM MEMPHIS (194-16) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS, AGENT, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION,
STATE OF TENNESSEE; HOBBS ACT - CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

b6
b7C

OO: ME.

[REDACTED] ADVISED SEPT. 13, 1977, SHE HAD BEEN

CONTACTED BY SUBJECT, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] AN INMATE AT FORT PILLOW STATE PRISON,
WOULD BE MOVED FROM THAT INSTITUTION TO A WORK RELEASE CENTER.

WITHERS ALSO TOLD HER THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN GETTING
[REDACTED] RELEASED FROM PRISON IF SHE HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO SWING
THE DEAL.

AUSA DANIEL CLANCY, MEMPHIS, CONTACTED FOR A PRELIMINARY
OPINION AND HE ADVISED THIS CASE WOULD FIT WITHIN THE GUIDELINES

CEH:wp
(1)

194-16-2
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED go
FILED go

Approved:

JHT/WDP/jo

Transmitted

(Number)

02282
(Time)

Per

Jean

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OF THE HOBBS ACT - CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. AUSA CLANCY

ALSO APPROVED RECORDING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN

[REDACTED] AND WITHERS.

ON SEPT. 13, 1977 [REDACTED] GAVE HER WRITTEN PERMISSION

TO HAVE THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORDED. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED WITHERS AT HIS BUSINESS NUMBER AND RECORDED A CONVERSATION LASTING APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, WITHERS REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO HAVE [REDACTED] MOVED TO A WORK RELEASE CENTER FOR \$2,000. HE ALSO INDICATED HE FELT CERTAIN THAT [REDACTED] COULD BE RELEASED AFTER HE HAD "ACQUIRED THE PROPER BACKGROUND." WITHERS WOULD NOT TELL [REDACTED] EXACTLY HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST TO GET [REDACTED] OUT OF PRISON BUT INDICATED IT WOULD BE AT LEAST \$12,000 TO \$16,000.

[REDACTED] WORKING WITH MEMPHIS OFFICE IN ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH WITHERS TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR WITHERS' TRIP TO NASHVILLE.

ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS WAS FORMERLY DESIGNATED AS
ME 338-R, [REDACTED]

CAPTIONED "ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS; CI." THESE CASES WERE

b2
b7D

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539

F B I

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CLOSED AS OF SEPTEMBER, 1976.

MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH
[REDACTED] REGARDING HER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUBJECT. [REDACTED]

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

GPO : 1977 O - 225-539